WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND **Application No.**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Hermann Pit

2. Name of applicant:

Blue Mountain Leasing Company

3. Address and telephone number of applicant and contact person:

137 5th Street
Usk, WA 99180
(509) 445-1732

4. Date checklist prepared:

August 28, 2006

5. Agency requiring checklist:

WA Department of Natural Resources
Division of Geology and Earth Resources
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-7007

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

This is an active site.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain:

No.

8. **List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.**

LFR Environmental Management and Consulting Engineering
Hydrogeologic Reconnaissance and Environmental Evaluation of the Hermann Pit

9. **Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain:**

None known. Air Quality and NPDES stated in SM-8A MIB 20DEC

10. **List any government approval or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.**

None known.

11. **Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.**

The 40 acre tract will be mined of its gravel in three segments, excluding the established 30 foot buffer from the property line. The subsequent use upon reclamation will be a return to forest practice.

12. **Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a large area, provide the boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.**

The proposed Hermann Pit is located approximately 5 miles northeast of Usk along Kings Lake Road, Pend Oreille County, Washington. The site's legal description is as follows: portions of the NE 1/4 and SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 in Section 10, Township 33 North, Range 44 East, Willamette Meridian. The property is made up of a single parcel 443310 00 0006.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT | **EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY**

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a) General description of the site (circle ~~one~~): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

The property is characterized by a series of terraces and terrace escarpments. Total relief of the site is 160 feet.

b) What is the measurement of the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

56%, excluding active pit face.

c) What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farm land.

USDA Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey of Pend Orielle County Area, Washington, maps soil on and around the project area as Bonner gravelly silt loam, 0 to 10 percent slopes, and Typic Xerorthents, 30 to 65 percent slopes. Soils in the Bonner series generally consist of well-drained soils on terraces formed in a mantle of volcanic ash and loess over glacial outwash of mixed mineralogy. Typic Xerorthents are well-drained soils formed in glacial outwash of mixed mineralogy on terrace escarpments.

d) Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No.

e) **Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

None anticipated.

f) **Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

Erosion of the soil could occur as it is moved and stockpiled prior to its final placement. Any eroded sediment will be contained on-site.

g) **About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

None anticipated.

h) **Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:**

Mine plan has been designed to contain all stormwater and potential sediment on-site.

2. **Air**

a) **What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

Short-term emissions can be expected from operating equipment such as dozers, loaders, rock crushers and haul trucks -- all of which will have emission control devices installed as required by state and county regulations.

b) Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c) Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Equipment will be maintained for efficient operation and fitted with emission control devices as required.

3. Water

a) Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, salt water, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes, Skookum Creek, a tributary to the Pend Oreille River, is located on the opposite side of Kings Lake Road, and is over 500 feet from the closest corner of the property. Also, an intermittent stream is located to the west of the site. It terminates before entering another body of water.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No.

3) **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands. Indicate the area of the site which would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

None.

4) **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No, this project does not and will not require any surface water withdrawals or diversions.

5) **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

No.

6) **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

No.

b) **<u>Ground</u>:**

1) **Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Yes. A well exists on site in the southeast portion of the mine. Water will be withdrawn to aid in dust control, etc. Water will be discharged to groundwater through infiltration areas in the pit floor. There will be no other discharge to groundwater.

2) **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

None.

c) **<u>Water Runoff</u> (including storm water):**

1) **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

The main source of runoff on this site is from precipitation falling within site boundaries. There is also a seasonal seep considered by professional opinion (LFR, 2006) to originate with a losing, intermittent stream to the west of the property. All runoff from current operations is infiltrating into the pit floor.

2) **Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

Accidental fuel or oil spills are possible. A spill prevention, containment and countermeasures plan utilizing Department of Ecology best management practices will be followed during operations, which should prevent any potential spills from reaching groundwater.

d) **Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground and run-off water impacts, if any:**

The mining plan will comply with all applicable requirements and appropriate best management

practices of the State Water Quality Program's Sand and Gravel General Permit # WAG 50-1136.

4. Plants

a) List types of vegetation found on the site

deciduous trees: *None.*

evergreen trees: *Douglas Fir, Western Larch, Hemlock, White Fir, Cedar, Lodgepole Pine, Ponderosa Pine.*

shrubs: *Douglas Spirea, Snowberry, Ceanothus velutinus.*

grass: *various species*

pasture:

crop or grain:

wet soil plants:

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other:

other types of vegetation: *mosses, lichens*

b) What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Eventually all of the existing vegetation, excluding that which exists within the property boundary buffer, will be removed. Most timber was removed before the land was acquired. Vegetation will be removed incrementally within a segment and replanted during reclamation which will occur contemporaneously with mining.

c) **List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

None known.

d) **Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:**

Subsequent use will be forest practices.

5. Animals

a) **List any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site, or are known to be on or near the site:**

birds: *various song birds, crows, jays, etc.*
mammals: *white-tailed deer, moose, cougar, etc.*

fish: *none.*

b) **List any threatened or endangered species know to be on or near the site.**

None known.

c) **Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.**

Pacific Flyway.

d) **Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:**

No specific strategies are in place.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a) What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Energy needs are not foreseen.

b) Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c) What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. Environmental Health

a) Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe:

Accidental fuel or oil spills are possible. A spill prevention, containment and countermeasures plan utilizing Department of Ecology best management practices will be followed during operations, which should prevent any potential spills from reaching groundwater or surface waters.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

N/A

2) **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:**

Best management practices will be employed on site to reduce the potential for accidental fuel or oil spills from occurring during equipment refueling. BMPs will also be used to quickly and completely clean up any spills consistent with the spill prevention countermeasure and control plan and remove any spill-contaminated materials to an approved disposal site.

b) **Noise**

1) **What types and levels of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

None.

2) **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**

Short-term noise generation by production processes and heavy equipment operation during work hours, six days per week. Occasionally longer hours may be necessary depending upon contractual agreements that require off hour operations.

3) **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts if any:**

Equipment will maintain requisite muffling devices. The pit will be screened from Kings Lake Road by a berm of in-situ material left until the third and final phase of mining. The pit floor will also be below the road grade and surrounding land elevation.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a) What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Latest use of the site was forest practice. Mining is in its initial stages. Surrounding land use is dominantly forest practice. A large sand and gravel pit owned by the Forest Service is in operation less than half a mile south of the site.

b) Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe:

No.

c) Describe any structures on the site.

No structures exist on the property.

d) Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

N/A

e) What is the current zoning classification of the site?

None.

f) What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

None.

g) If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

N/A

h) Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No.

i) Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

j) Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k) Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

N/A

l) Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

This activity is acceptable per Pend Oreille County Public Works Department. Refer to DNR SM-6 Form attached with this submittal package.

9. Housing

a) Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low-income housing.

N/A

b) Approximately how many units would be eliminated, if any? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low- income housing.

N/A

c) **Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**

N/A

10. Aesthetics

a) **What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

No structures proposed.

b) **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

None.

c) **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**

A vegetated buffer and a screening berm would be left in place along the eastern boundary. A 30 foot vegetated buffer will surround the property on all sides.

11. Light and Glare

a) **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

None.

b) **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

No.

c) **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

None.

d) **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

A vegetated buffer and a screening berm would be left in place along the eastern boundary. A 30 foot vegetated buffer will surround the property on all sides.

12. Recreation

a) **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

There is a Sno-Park located 1.6 miles north of the site on Kings Lake Road.

b) **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

No.

c) **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:**

N/A

13. Historical and Cultural Preservation

a) **Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.**

None known.

b) **Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.**

N/A

c) **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**

N/A

14. Transportation

a) **Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on-site plans, if any.**

Access is off Kings Lake Road, maintained by Pend Oreille County.

b) **Is site currently served by public transit?**

No.

If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

N/A

c) **How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

N/A

d) **Will the proposal require any new roads or streets or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

No.

e) **Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

No.

f) **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**

Variable depending on market conditions throughout the life of the project. Typically the daily average will be quite low, perhaps only 6 to 8 truck trips per day. Contracts could generate up to 200 or more truck trips per day. The finished project will generate no vehicular trips.

g) **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

N/A

15. Public Services

a) **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

No.

b) Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

N/A

16. Utilities

a) Circle utilities currently available at the site:

No utilities available on site.

b) Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No use of utilities is predicted.

SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____

Date submitted: RECEIVED

SEP 20 2006

Geology and Earth

Reviewed by Matthew I. Brookshire 20DEC06